



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Deanna Alexander, 18th District

For Immediate Release September 25, 2012

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SUPERVISOR ALEXANDER CHALLENGES EFFICACY OF NEW PUBLIC SAFETY PROPOSAL

Plan from County Executive Abele and Mayor Barrett would shift response from County to City

Milwaukee – Milwaukee County Supervisor Deanna Alexander released the following statement regarding the parks patrol and 911 response proposal from Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele and Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett:

“I applaud the County Executive and the Mayor for seeking ways to save money and collaborate to reduce service duplication and inefficiencies.

However, playing a shell game to move money from one law enforcement agency to another that is already stretched thin and under public scrutiny for its law enforcement practices hardly seems like the best way to initiate change.

If there is one expense that my district supports above all others, it is increasing public safety. Every single call and email that I have received on this issue from my constituency, including those coming from city employees, has been in support of preserving the Sheriff’s presence in the parks.

I am very supportive of our city’s police officers and the commitment they make in protecting our city. However, it is no secret that MPD’s inability to respond to citizens’ distress calls is disappointing, if not alarming, and I must wonder, if MPD is already having a difficult time minimizing crime in the city, why would they be interested in contracting to take on more responsibility?

When I recently found myself amidst a gun-toting mob in a County Park, I had to call 911 for help. I was told that MPD did not have the ability to respond but that a Sheriff’s Deputy would respond to my call for help. I must further commend that two-deputy team for a response time of only six minutes – a far cry from MPD’s impotence in the matter.

I have also held town hall meetings in County Parks, which both Sheriff’s deputies and MPD officers have attended. When faced with questions about their inability to issue citations to trouble-makers, MPD responded that in many cases they do not have jurisdiction in County Parks and must await a Sheriff’s Deputy in order to issue citations.

While I have yet to see a written proposal from the authors and pledge to give it fair review when presented, I can confidently say that if it is essentially what the media has already presented to us, I will stand in support of preserving public safety through continued and enhanced use of the Sheriff’s Department.

I quote my constituents directly in stating that ‘what we need is more law enforcement and public safety funding, not less.’”

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